ABSTRACT

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A firewall system and method which optimizes the performance of the firewall process by reducing overhead associated with ACL verification and firewall application-level authorization. The firewall system comprises a session manager operating in the firewall services component and a firewall module

10   operating in the switching process component. In one embodiment, the firewall module is configured to provide certain "non-application" level inspection of data packets and update the context of "sessions" associated with the data packets without sending the packets to the firewall services component using session information provided by the session manager.

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